THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 5606 PCOs were affected as their revenue dropped due to withdrawal of ISD facility in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) To compensate, all these PCOs were treated as Local PCOs for the period ISD/STD facility was banned and the commission was enhanced to 40 paise per call as applicable in the case of Local PCOs.

Use of telephone lines by terrorist network

933. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL and other Government organizations' telephone lines in the category of 'dedicated lines' and 'empty spaces' are being used by terrorist network and international criminals without paying for them and thereby 'by passing fraud';

(b) if so, to what extent, according to Government's estimate, they have suffered losses during the last three years, year-wise and organization-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the concerned organizations to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.